REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-20 are now pending in the application. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 9, 16, 18 and 19 have been amended. The basis for the foregoing amendments may be found throughout the written description, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during an Examiner interview of December 14, 2006. During the interview, the Applicants' attorney and the Examiner discussed the pending claims of record in view of the prior art. The Applicants' attorney discussed with the Examiner novel features provided in the instant invention over the art of record. Specifically, one point of novelty includes injecting fluid between the first and second sheets thereby causing the first sheet to project outward wherein a first anode fluid flow channel and a second self-contained coolant channel are formed. The Applicants' attorney agreed to more specifically recite the formation of a first anode fluid flow channel and a second self-contained coolant channel in the pending independent claims 1, 9 and 16 as suggested by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 2,906,006 (Neel) and U.S. Pat. No. 3,334,398 (Middleton). Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-20

also stand rejected as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Neel and U.S. Pat. No. 4,080,702 (Chatfield). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claims 1, 9 and 16 have all been amended to specifically recite formation of a first anode fluid flow channel and a second self-contained coolant channel. In addition, claim 16 has been amended to recite formation of a third cathode fluid flow channel. Dependent claims 18 and 19 have also been amended to specifically recite formation of a third cathode fluid flow channel.

Applicants note that the collective art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Applicants maintain that if the structure shown in Neel is to be used as a heat exchanger as described at col. 2, lines 70-75, there cannot be any organized flow across the top face of the structure shown in FIG. 6 of Neel. Furthermore, as provided in the instant invention, there is no anode fluid flow channel defined across the top face of Neel suitable to direct fluid from a defined inlet to a defined outlet as claimed in the present invention.

Similarly, Middleton does not teach or suggest formation of an anode fluid flow channel. Instead, as with Neel, Middleton only discloses fabrication of flow patterns between the two sheets. Chatfield discusses formation of a heat exchanger wherein a metal tube is sandwiched between a pair of metal sheets. Chatfield does not teach or suggest formation of a first anode fluid flow channel. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/11/2007

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